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APM-AGEE-SALVADOR:350

FOR RELEASE AT 10:30 A.M. EST

EX-CIA AGENT CALLS EL SALVADOR REPORT 'PROPAGANDA EXERCISE'

EDS: NEWS CONFERENCE TO RELEASE AGEE'S CRITIQUE AT 10:30 A.M. EST;

TOP PROSPECTS UNCERTAIN.

BY ROBERT PARRY

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) - Former CIA agent Philip Agee says the State Department's special report on alleged Soviet-bloc support for Salvadoran guerrillas is so filled with distortions and false claims that it is "little more than a blatant propaganda exercise."

In a 46-page critique released today, Agee said he believes many key documents purportedly captured from Salvadoran guerrillas were fabricated. And he added that even if authentic, they fail to prove the Reagan administration's charge of massive Cuban and Soviet-bloc arms shipments to El Salvador.

"There is no evidence in the documents presented in this 'white paper' to support the belief that the Soviet Union has given significant support to the Salvadoran guerrilla movement," Agee said.

Agee, who has been a prominent critic of the CIA's covert operations since resigning from the agency in 1968, lives in Hamburg, West Germany. His U.S. passport was revoked because of his anti-CIA activities.

Agee's review of the State Department report was made public here by editors of "Covert Action," a magazine that seeks to expose secret CIA operations.

In the critique, Agee said that based on his knowledge of the CIA's activities in Latin America, the agency "could have fabricated all 19 of these (captured guerrilla) documents, perhaps working with Salvadoran security officials. . . . Such an operation would not be the first time the CIA has done it."

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